

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a hoisting frame which can be connected on the upper side to hoisting cables and has means on the underside for picking up a secondary hoisting frame. The hoisting frame is adjustable between a retracted position, in which its transverse dimension is equal to that of the secondary hoisting frame, and an extended position. The pick-up means are adapted to pick up a single secondary hoisting frame in the retracted position and to pick up two mutually adjacent secondary hoisting frames in the extended position.

The invention further relates to a method for transferring containers, comprising the steps of:

picking up one load at the first location when the hoisting frame is retracted, or two loads when the hoisting frame is extended,

lifting, displacing to a second location and there lowering the hoisting frame with the picked-up load(s),  
uncoupling the load(s) from the hoisting frame,  
lifting the hoisting frame,

moving the hoisting frame from its one to its other position, wherein a secondary hoisting frame is coupled on or uncoupled, and

repeating said steps.